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A SPEECH

DELIVERED AT THE

SESSION OF JUNE 3rd, 1892

OF

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC,

BY

THE HONORABLE LOUIS BEAUBIEN,

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND COLONISATION.





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THE HON. LOUIS BEAUBIEN,

Commissioner of Agriculture and Colonisation.

MR. SPEAKER,

I postponed the discussion of this item of \$10,000 for the dairy industry until to-day for a set purpose. Several members had prayed me to wait, in order to give them an opportunity of taking part in the debate, and I thought it my duty to accede to their request.

In the Committee on Agriculture we had lately two such interesting sessions, that we determined to revive them in the early days of next session, at which time the members will not be very busy. This will give the specialists a fresh opportunity of addressing our farmers. The addresses will be published.

We heard Professor Robertson, who occupies an important position at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, as well as the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. J. C. Chapais, and we were greatly interested by the addresses of both.

SILOES.

Since these two addresses I have made many reflections, which I now propose to communicate to this House.

First, I request the active, sincere coöperation of each member.

A member, in the county he represents, occupies of necessity an import-

ant position. I ask for his influence to help us to establish a silo in every parish where no silo exists at present.

Good advice has frequently great effect, and does a great deal more than any amount of offered prizes.

Were each member to devote himself seriously to this end, and push ahead one of the wealthiest of the farmers in each place, we should succeed indisputably in implanting the practice of ensilage over the whole province.

To encourage this practice we intend, this year, to grant a prize of \$20 to the farmer who shall build a silo in a parish where there is none at present. There are, I believe, a thousand parishes in the province. We should have as many siloes as a commencement. The same prizes cannot be offered every year, but this year, I hope, we shall have to pay the greatest amount possible.

There is not one member who cannot promise us to devote himself to this task during one day in each parish. Every member follows, doubtless, the laudable custom of presenting himself before the electors after every session to render an account of his stewardship; the best speech he can make to them, after having justified his parliamentary conduct, is one explaining the real value of the silo.

FARM-SCHOOLS.

Secondly, I ask the members to send a pupil from every parish to the farm schools. We ought to have a thousand pupils next year. With the aid of the zealous curés and the chief inhabitants, this result can be obtained.

I spoke of the curés. They it is who can and who will be of the greatest assistance to us. We heard yesterday about the great work done by them in the country, what they have done for the higher education, for the diffusion and the progress of classical studies. They it is who have built the colleges and peopled them with students.

Now, we do not ask them to make such extensive sacrifices. Our farm schools are nearly ready; it is only the pupils that are wanting, and they must be found.

What steps were taken to develop this state of the higher education, the advantages of which are nowadays so highly valued that even the poorer farmers deprive themselves of everything, so to speak, that they may send a son to college?

How often has not the curé sent his *protégé* to college? More than one has even had the merit of sending a dozen or more scholars of his parish at his own expense; and among them have sometimes been men who

have distinguished themselves in the service of the State and of the Church. After building the college, the curé found the scholars. What we ask for to-day will not be so costly. The taste for the higher education is well developed, it has become part of our customs, it can stand alone. The curé can now exert his influence and his earnest desire to be useful in another direction. His advice will still be productive of good. Let him endow our farm schools with an equally numerous band of agricultural students.

If, with the assistance of those distinguished agriculturists who will lend me their coöperation, I am supplied with one pupil from every parish, I will engage to make a good farmer of him. But I beg the members, as well as the other people of the country, to send me fit pupils. I will tell you what a lad ought to be, so that time and money may not be uselessly expended in obtaining pupils to instruct, who, the moment they are free from the trammels of the school, will desert the interests of agriculture.

Our proposed pupil should be from 14 to 18 years old, possessed of a certain amount of education, and, in every sense of the word, a nice lad (*joli garçon*). He must be the son of a farmer and the heir presumptive of a farm.

The chief point is the judicious selection of the pupils.

Up to the present time, the results obtained by our schools of agriculture have not, it must be confessed, been in due proportion to the sums expended thereon. We have not been so successful as we hoped to be, because the selection of pupils has not been possible. We have been satisfied with creating the institution, but we have not employed the proper means of finding pupils to fill it; and as a certain number of students was necessary before the institution could receive its grant, any lad who presented himself, or could be picked up anywhere, was received, without much care being exercised in the selection. This must be entirely altered.

To repeat what I said just now: you know the steps that were taken to promote the diffusion of the higher education. Since our success has been so great in that, let us take the same means to promote the diffusion of sound agricultural studies. We said to ourselves: The country needs statesmen and churchmen; and statesmen and churchmen were found for it.

In this, success was obtained in an enterprise much more arduous than the enterprise I put before you to-day; for, indeed, the task then was not to search after the son of a farmer to convert him into a farmer, but, so to speak, to go to the very antipodes of things—to visit the abode of the farmer

to find a man who one day might be called upon to govern the nation. The son of the *voyageur* who passed his life in the bush ; the son of the peasant-soldier, who deserted the plough for the musket ; the youth born in the humblest grade of society—all these were taken, educated, and then placed at the head of the nation ; out of them was selected a distinguished prelate, a Cartier, a Papineau. (Cheers.) Thus, by going from one extremity of the social scale to the other, prodigies were accomplished. Out of a population composed in great part of *voyageurs* and poor peasants, means were found to form men highly educated, men who have worthily occupied the most elevated positions, men who have done honor to our country, as they would have done honor to any country in which they might have happened to have lived.

At the time when we were conquered, and reduced, algebraically speaking, to our simplest expression ; at the time when France was abandoning us, we were endowed with new chiefs. Let the clergy again afford us the coöperation of their intelligence and of their devotion, and the restoration of our agriculture will be assured.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Agriculture is still the source of our national wealth. That our towns may flourish our rural districts must be prosperous.

To arrive at this result I desire to benefit by the experience of those who have followed the best practical methods, who have been successful, and who are living, ostensible proofs that one can gain one's bread on a farm and not come to ruin ; that on a farm one can prosper and remain in this our country, Canada. (Cheers.)

One of the largest dealers in the country, Mr. Ayer of Montreal, a man who has made his fortune in the dairy industry, told us the other day, before the Committee on Agriculture, that the soil of the Province of Quebec was better suited to dairying than the soil of Ontario.

To this statement I am sure you will all listen with pleasure.

Our field of operation in the Province of Quebec is superior to that of Ontario ! Why, it is a perfect revelation !

I have often heard it said that it freezes in every month of the year in this province. May be, Voltaire was the author of this saying, but I believe many of our people have repeated it after him. They tell us our climate is too severe ; our long, long winters devour our profits. Well, here is a man who has realised a considerable fortune in dealing in the butter and cheese of our province, a man who has been obliged to visit all

our districts, who is well acquainted with them all, and who tells us : For dairying you have the finest country in the world !

SYNDICATES OF CREAMERIES AND CHEESE FACTORIES.

I ask, in the third place, that the Dairymen's Association be aided in *syndicating* all the creameries and cheese factories that exist in the province.

Here, Mr. Speaker, is a way in which a member may be of the greatest service. They are, say, ten, fifteen, twenty creameries or cheese factories in his county. These are independent ; that is, they form no part of any syndicate. The thing to be done is to reunite them into a syndicate, and the member is the one who can work most successfully for that purpose.

Let him go and hunt up the proprietors of these creameries and cheeseries, and try to convince them of the folly they are guilty of in remaining unconnected with the syndicate.

But it will be said, What good can the syndicate do us ? The syndicate is the school of cheese and butter-making ; it is even more than that, I might almost say it is the university for that business. It is the best means of teaching how to manufacture the goods, and to give them the shape and quality needed to assure them the highest prices in the market.

This morning I was breakfasting with an Englishman, and the conversation happening to turn upon the subject we are now discussing,

“ Why,” said he, “ don't you make butter here like some we make in England ? And why don't you, especially you who derive your descent from the Bretons and Normans, make such butter as is made in Brittany ? *Brittany butter*, that's the stuff ! When once one has tasted it one knows its value. Brittany butter is good, and it's always the same, always good ; so it always fetches the best price. There, the same quality of butter is invariably made. There is very good butter made in England, but it is not constantly good. One day you buy good butter at market, and the next week you can't get anything equal to it ; while Brittany and Norman butter is always of the same quality, always excellent.”

This is the result we aim at in forming syndicates for our creameries and cheeseries : the manufacture of goods of superior quality and always uniform ; permanency of the same quality ; good butter, always good ; good cheese, and always good.

The system of the syndicate is to reunite from fifteen to twenty-five associations, or makers, under the superintendence of one inspector, whose salary is paid half by the Government and half by the syndicate. This

year there are fifteen of them. During the whole summer, the inspector visits the creameries and cheeseries in his charge, correcting faults, making suggestions for the amelioration of the method of working—he himself being a maker—acting in such a way that the goods be made in the most perfect way. These inspectors are themselves under the control of an inspector-general, and during the winter will attend a school where they will receive full instruction in their duties. I shall have something to say presently about this school. Everywhere, in all syndicated factories, the products will be good, and consequently will find the best prices.

I take the syndicate to be one of the most important of the things that concern the farmer and the proprietors of creameries and cheeseries.

Here, for instance, is a creamery or a cheesery which turns out a first-rate article; by its side—I am talking of places where the factories are not syndicated—by its side, I say, is a factory that turns out only inferior goods; a dealer visits these factories—Mr. Ayer or Mr. MacPherson,—or he sends his agent to make purchases; the butter or cheese is sent to England. The consequence is, that the mixture of good and bad in the same cargo diminishes the chances of obtaining for the good article the price that was expected for it. And, as the price dealers pay here is in direct ratio with that they receive in England, the careful, intelligent man who has made a good article is compelled to submit to a diminution of his profits because his next neighbour has manufactured inferior goods.

Therefore it is clear we must improve the defective process of the neighbour, and thus raise the general standard of excellence.

That is the aim of the syndicates, the object that the Dairymen's Association proposed to itself when establishing them throughout the province. I congratulate that association with all my heart on its having advanced so far along the road of progress.

I desire to retain it as my best adviser.

The question with which it is now concerned is: How shall we attach to the syndicates all those creameries and cheeseries not yet syndicated?

Here, the members can assist us. They have influence, and they are even accustomed, in some degree, to the rôle of canvassers. If in their counties there are some factories which are not syndicated, let them tell the proprietors that they are far from extracting all the possible profits from their trade; that they have more to learn before they arrive at perfection; that their school is the syndicate, and their instructor the inspector. They will not have long to wait for their reward.

I will ask the member for Bagot to relate his experience in this matter.

The day before yesterday, I heard the president of one of the syndicates, Mr. Brodeur of St. Hugues, give us most interesting information on the way in which the syndicates were appreciated by the people of his neighbourhood.

Let the farmers open their eyes and convince themselves of the good they may derive from these institutions. Under the syndicates goods will be well made. Then, I shall propose to the Dairymen's Association to put a trade-mark on the cheese—not on the box, but on the cheese itself. It might be stamped with the words "Class 1," or 2 or 3, by the Inspector-General of the Province of Quebec. With the aid of our friends of the Dairymen's Association, I intend to do my best to provide a sufficient number of inspectors, and to insure that they all know their business.

To what result shall we arrive by this organization? We shall secure the trade with the English market, the best and safest we have, and we shall obtain prices more constant and more remunerative.

There, that is what I wish to do with the aid of the House; I speak to both sides of the Chamber.

As to myself, I intend to travel through my county, and to labor, with the support of the curé of each parish and of all the well-disposed *citoyens*, to attain to all three of the results which I have been talking about.

I do not say we shall be successful in every point, but it seems to me that if each member would put his shoulder to the wheel, before long, success—general success—would crown our common efforts.

We have to-day 800 cheese factories in operation, but we do not make perfect goods in all of them. We must make perfect goods, uniformly, everywhere, and thenceforward our trade will receive an enormous extension. We exported last year \$10,000,000 worth of dairy products, of butter or cheese. These figures represent the exports of the whole Dominion. Unfortunately I cannot state the share of the Province of Quebec in them; still, looking at these figures, one can see at a glance the result at which we might arrive with a little labor, which every one of us ought to give with his whole heart.

THE SCHOOL OF DAIRY INDUSTRY.

A paragraph of the speech from the throne stated that the Government intended to devote special attention to the dairy industry. I am now explaining to the House what it is we propose to do. I am sorry to be rather long, but the matter we are treating deserves that we afford it all the time necessary to its consideration. I said that one of the most certain

means of increasing the manufacture of a superior quality of goods, be they cheese or butter, was a conscientious, minute inspection ; it therefore follows that the inspector should be a man possessed of the necessary qualifications.

At present we have not enough inspectors, and some of them perhaps are not quite so competent as might be desired, although others are thoroughly well skilled in their business. They are few in number when compared with the number of syndicated factories. This is what I propose : In the very centre of the district where dairying is held in high estimation, at St. Hyacinthe, the cradle of the Dairymen's Association, alongside of the Experimental Farm of the College of St. Hyacinthe, we are about to establish a school where the manufacture of butter and cheese will be taught. This school, I may say, *en passant*, is well advanced in its organisation. The inspectors will attend it, especially in the winter months, when they will not be on their travels. They will be kept *au courant* of all the new processes, of all the improvements introduced into the business. The co-operation of its skilled professors will be generously lent to us by the Dominion Government for the benefit of this school. Again, for the use of this school, the Dairymen's Association has already retained the services of one of the best makers of the Dominion, and even of the United States. Our course of instruction, then, will be excellent, both in theory and in practice. If the House, which is listening to me with so much attention, will kindly lend me its aid, will put its shoulder manfully to the wheel, I can promise that in two years we shall be "giving points" to the Province of Ontario in the making of butter and cheese. Before two years are over, we shall even have goods as highly esteemed as those made at Ingersoll, the centre of the Ontario dairy industry. Only the other day, Professor Robertson told us that, as to some goods, we had beaten Ontario. Not, indeed, in the bulk of our manufactures, but we have shown that we are capable of contending to advantage even with that rich province, a contest, the high prize of which is the prosperity of our country. The organisation of which I am speaking will assuredly bring about this result.

The inspectors, after leaving the St. Hyacinthe school, will travel round their syndicates diffusing sound ideas, and insuring us throughout the country the manufacture of an article that shall be always uniformly good.

En passant, I wish to draw your attention to the little care that is generally taken about the manufacture of the cheese boxes.

The best goods, as regards the market, are not only those that are the

best made, but they must be also well packed in the best cases. Remember what Mr. Ayer said to us the other day in the Committee on Agriculture, that our package was not the most suitable dress for our goods; that it injured the sale of our products. He quoted facts within his personal experience. It is clear that if a shopkeeper entering a store finds on one side a heap of boxes of cheese badly dressed up (*agencée*), of rough appearance, and on the other side boxes of agreeable looks, well made and constructed in such a way as to keep the contents in good order,—it is clear, I say, that he will naturally be inclined to select the latter as his choice.

Since the preferences of the buyer may be determined, in a certain degree, by the case even of the goods, the package itself must be cared for. It is a detail that is not without its importance.

It being granted that we are going to improve the process of manufacture and the mode of marketing our butter and cheese, we shall necessarily be led to increase our production of milk. And this brings me back to the subject of the silo: with the aid of this we can make butter in winter as well as in summer.

THE SILO AGAIN.

In connection with this, I think I ought to read to the House the observations made by our friend, the member for Chateauguay. He spoke to us the other day about the silo, and I am entirely of his opinion. He belongs to a purely agricultural family: he is a near relation of several of the laureates of the *Mérite Agricole*. I may say the same of my estimable colleague, the member for Compton. They both belong to the Scottish nation, so skilled in agriculture, and at whose abode my countrymen have always found so much kindly feeling, as well as such good examples in farming.

The following quotation is from the *Montreal Gazette* of the 24th of last May:

THE CONSTRUCTION OF SILOES.

“While the Government seems disposed to encourage the farmers in the building of siloes, it would be well to advise them, in order to save disappointment, rather to expend a few dollars more in their construction than to put up a cheap structure that will not keep out the frost. Mr. Gréig, member for Chateauguay, recommends one that is extensively used in his county. The outside wall is composed of two thicknesses of plank, with one or two linings of tar-paper between. The inner wall is of plank,

tongued and grooved, and there is a space of eight inches between the two walls. It is almost impossible for the frost to penetrate, especially if the fodder has been properly cut and packed so as to exclude the air. The whole cost of such a silo is about \$46, and every farmer who has built one has found it so profitable that he has added more afterwards. No man of any intelligence would deny that the silo is about the most profitable investment a farmer can make, but at the present time, when it is just being introduced, it is essential that it should be in every respect completely successful. A silo with a wall of a single plank may not produce all the results a farmer expects, and others may be deterred by his experience from adopting the system."

It was remarked, the other day, that it was a hard task to get our farmers to grow roots, and that it was for the purpose of persuading them to do so that a grant was made to them of 50 cents a ton for all beets delivered at the factory. It is much less troublesome to persuade them to grow maize for ensilage, thereby furnishing themselves with the means of drawing a very satisfactory revenue from their farms, either by using the silage to fatten beasts or by giving it to their dairy cows.

The farmer who has a field of corn can not only fill his silo with it as a provision for the winter, but use some of it in summer. When the burning rays of the sun shall have scorched up the pastures, so that the cows begin to dry up, he can mow some of this succulent fodder and give it to his cattle, either on the pastures or in the cow-house.

People complain, and with reason, that emigration is decimating us; those on the opposite benches throw it in our teeth. We are all anxious to abolish it. Were the system of ensilage diffused over the whole country, farming would be attractive because it would be remunerative. The silo is the savings-bank of the farmer, which will always give for him abundant supplies for the whole of his establishment. Winter and summer, summer and winter, at all seasons, his cattle will be always full-fed, their number, through its aid, will be constantly on the increase, and, at the same time, his stock of manure will be multiplied indefinitely.

The scarcity of manure—there's another thing that needs a remedy. If we would reflect a little on the way in which we have farmed our land, we might say, as Mr. Ayer said the other day, that, without exaggeration, the soil of the Province of Quebec possesses an extraordinary stock of fertility. For, in truth, for years and years we have worked the land; we have extracted from it vast stores of wealth; we have never made it any return, and, even now, it is not worn out.

By breeding and rearing cattle we shall increase our stock of manure, to use in the interim while we are learning how to add to it superphosphates and other artificial manures.

Here is our mistake : we persist in following the old system of farming, which may have been good enough on the confines of the bush, when the soil was virgin, but which is now no longer good after at least half a century of spoliation. We close our eyes to the fact that in the cultivation of grain we have now a rival with whom we cannot strive successfully—the West, the great West, where this cultivation is carried on on an immense scale that defies competition.

This is a fact that the people in the Eastern States, and especially in the State of New York, are beginning to feel that they will have to reckon with.

On this point, allow me to read the following extract from a speech recently made by the Governor of the State of New York :

(The Cultivator and Country Gentleman, 19th May, 1892.)

“My own observation and experience have convinced me that the most practicable kind of relief which can be offered to the agricultural communities of the State, is that which, recognising the changed conditions prevailing now and created by the opening up of an immense farming territory in the west, endeavors to discourage our farmers from the vain attempt to compete with their western rivals in the production of wheat, corn, and other cereals, and stimulates them to new lines of agricultural effort more suited to existing conditions and to present demands. The rapid increase of population in the towns and cities of the State is of direct benefit to our farmers if they would take advantage of it, by offering a greater market than that possessed by the farmers of any other State for the sale of the so called “small crops,” vegetables, fruits, etc., of dairy products, fine butter and cheese, of poultry and eggs, and other products, the demand for which is constantly increasing, and in the sale of which there cannot be dangerous competition from the farmers of neighbouring States.”

VARIOUS KINDS OF CHEESE.

At the dairy school, the mode of making several kinds of cheese, not yet manufactured in this province, will also be taught. These novel kinds will not return smaller profits to the maker even if they were put on our

markets instead of the cheese we now import. I am speaking of the Gruyère and other kinds.

Nowadays, our business lacks variety. We walk all in the same path, we are all pursuing the same game, we are all making the same kind of cheese, the so-called "American." If we do not wish to see before long the market overcrowded with unsaleable goods, it is important, it is necessary, to vary our products, to open new roads. Let those who are actuated by the spirit of innovation set the example. Let us beware of a possible overcrowding of the market.

The popular saying advises us "not to put all our eggs into one basket." In my turn, I say: do not all make the same thing, but prepare new markets for yourselves by manufacturing goods of a novel description.

I spoke of the school at St. Hyacinthe. Many districts, no doubt, will try to get this school established in their locality, but I think it fair to place it where was the cradle and where is still the centre of the dairy industry of the Province of Quebec. This spot set the example, and it has produced the men who have displayed the most enterprising spirit as regards the dairy industry. While I applaud their labors, I desire also to give them the encouragement they have earned. We have there already an experimental farm and an analytical station, with an agricultural-chemical laboratory. The new school will be the complement of these establishments.

To diffuse a knowledge of agricultural science, is the sincere desire of the Government, and I may tell the cheese-makers, in particular, that we intend to neglect no means of initiating them into all the mysteries of their art.

While we are exporting to Europe an enormous quantity of so-called American cheese, made in our province, we are, at the same time, importing a considerable quantity of other cheese. I know that more than one of my hearers is not satisfied with Canadian cheese, but orders, from Europe, Gruyère and Roquefort for the consumption of his palace.

Well, we are going to try—and I do not see why we should not succeed—to make goods such as these.

WINTER BUTTER-MAKING.

That is not all. The making of butter in winter has just been successfully started, and this onward step in the road of progress must be introduced into our province. Thenceforward, the cheese factory will no longer

have to close its doors in winter, but by making butter will continue its operations, and become an establishment remunerative to its patrons.

And, in combination with the silo, this is simple enough ; for the silo is, so to speak, the prolongation of the pasture. The silo receives the growth of the meadow (*plante de la prairie*), and keeps it fresh and succulent throughout the winter. So surely is this a fact, that I have been told a hundred times, by makers and farmers, that their butter had during winter the same taste, the same aroma, and the same color that it had in summer.

If you have good silage, made from maize sufficiently matured and fermented, you will have cattle food that will possess the same flavor that it possessed in summer, and your cows will give the same quality of butter.

The silo, then, the silo for ever ! The farmer, too, should learn that its cost is not above his means ; that nothing out of the way is demanded from him ; that he may see one built and in operation in the next parish, even, perhaps, at the farm of one of his friends, and that it is invariably successful.

If you want to persuade the general run of farmers to do anything, show them an example close by, so that they may see it without any trouble. This will prove of more value to most of them than any amount of writing or speaking. And this is what I propose to do.

By means of farm schools, by the building of siloes in every parish, by the improvement of our creameries and cheeseries, I aim at sowing examples broadcast over the whole province ; to keep them at all times before the eyes of every one, and by this to say to those even who never open a book or an agricultural paper, "At least open your eyes. There, at your very gate, is one of your fellow citizens, not more industrious than yourself, and yet how much more successful. It is because he has a silo, and with the fresh and succulent food he gets from it, he keeps his stock in good order, and his cows give him almost as much profit in winter as they do in summer."

INSTRUCTION IN THE FARM-SCHOOLS.

I hope our farm-schools will be crowded with the sons of our farmers. These schools shall be, before everything, practical schools of agriculture.

Some may say, perhaps, that all I aim at is to make good workmen. Gentlemen, I have a son who has completed his classical studies ; when his agricultural education was going on he was not much afraid of following the foreman in his work. He learned the practice of farming, and

the theory was not long in coming. To-day he is acquainted with those works that contain briefly the best information on the subject of agricultural chemistry.

I do not despise theory, but I do not think it is always wise to commence a course of instruction with it.

Circumstances must be reckoned with. With our farmer, we must shoot straight to the target; he must be shown the practical result, so that he can lay his finger on it. If you put into his hand a treatise on agriculture, very likely he won't read it; but if you tell him to look at the practical improvements in a neighbouring field, he will listen to the eloquent voice of the charmer.

I want the agricultural instruction in these farm-schools to be essentially practical. When an intelligent practice has once been established, there will not be much trouble about adding the theory.

One of the best books ever written on agriculture, Stephens' "Book of the Farm," was the work of a man who was educated on a farm.

What I am now saying, I consider as very important. When I was only a private member of the Council of Agriculture, I proposed one day the above system of practical instruction, and some one said to me: "You are going to make the pupils nothing but farm labourers." In spite of that, some of them adopted the idea, followed this road, began to practice, and they it is who to-day are the most successful of all; they who were not ashamed of starting as labourers, are now the princes of the occupation. (Cheers.) This Stephens, whose work I just mentioned, after having entered himself on a farm as a simple workman, raised himself by degrees, and ended by being decorated by Her Majesty as a laureate of agriculture. He leapt from the plough to that distinguished position. He began by the practice, and he ended by writing the best book on the theory of farming.

Work, personal observation, an individualistic habit of taking the initiative: these are the elements of success.

I do not mean to indulge in useless recrimination, but I must say of our agricultural schools, that they, in my opinion, have not followed the right road to success. It has not always been their fault; they had not a choice of pupils. There was no systematic plan to guide their choice. They lectured the lad who presented himself on agriculture, although he frequently showed indisputably, that his heart was far from being interested in that subject; they did not send him to work on to the land often enough to let him feel the annoyance of storm and tempest, the inevitable lot of the farmer; they did not submit him to the salutary test of

labour, proving both his reins and his courage, in order to find out if he had a real vocation to this pursuit, so that the provincial grant and the labour of his instructions might not be wasted. A noviciate has its *raison d'être* in agriculture, as well as in other things.

I never had any doubts about the devotedness of the professors. I admired them all the more that they showed proofs of it without being discouraged at their persistent failures.

There ought to be now at least a hundred and fifty pupils at each of our schools.

I mean to remember with gratitude the services rendered by these professors; to try to profit by their constant good intentions, directing it, if I can, gently into a road rather different to the old road, but leading always to the same end, the formation of good farmers. Hurried along as we are, thirsting eagerly as we do for instantaneous progress, let us endeavour to instruct, by surer and prompter means, the sons of our farmers, but only on condition that they are certain to enter on a farmer's life when they leave the school.

I intend to profit by what exists now, altering things perhaps, but with prudence, with discretion. When one can reckon on good will and devotedness, one can undertake with confidence that which is dictated, not by the desire to do great things, to make a show, but by the desire to do good according to the ratio of our powers, and with the co-operation of all those that can assist us.

I do not think that, especially at present, a central school under the guidance of the Government, as has been already proposed, is what is wanted. Grignon, in France, has not yet succeeded as regards the number of the pupils there. Let us first find pupils, bring them forward, and when we shall have succeeded in crowding the schools we have at present, it will be time enough to cast a glance elsewhere.

And we must treat the lads whom we propose to enlist under the standard of agriculture with consideration and respect; we must show that we mean to care for them.

For my part I shall at once tell the cadets of our great agricultural army that in them I see a hope of a salutary change for the country. Let them flock to the farm schools to do honor to labor, which in turn will do honor to them. They are called upon to go abroad over our country, distributing the good seed that will restore fertility to the heritage they have received from their ancestors.

When our good lads shall have worked for a year, we must help them

to take a trip through the country in autumn, so that they may learn and see for themselves how things are done in the States, in Ontario and in other places.

They will bring back a good load of experience with them, and many of them will return resolved to put into practice on their own farms the improvements they have observed during their tour.

The idea of a journey has more than once turned the brain of our countrymen, and has led them far away from their country, far away from the paternal roof. Let us hope that, for once, the journey we are speaking of will conduce to their remaining permanently at home. Then, like their ancestors, they will pass their days in honor and happiness.

For the cost of these excursions, lightened as they will be by the generous arrangements of our steamboat and railroad companies, a trifling payment by each will suffice.

These, gentlemen, are the ideas I wish to lay before you.

A CENTRAL CREAMERY.

I see by my notes that, before resuming my seat, I have to return to the subject of the dairy industry.

On another occasion I related to the House a project, which was to aid the establishment of a central factory, to which butter should be brought in the "grain" state, and be there subjected to the last processes of manufacture.

This central factory would be placed somewhere on the banks of the great St. Lawrence, at a spot where the goods could be easily loaded on to the ocean steamers.

Experts in the manufacture of butter say that this article runs special risks in the last handling it undergoes. If it be not well made, if the tub is defective, the butter is soon spoiled; it reaches its destination in bad condition, and the aroma is lost.

Mr Taché, the Secretary of the Dairymen's Association, conceived the idea of this establishment. I have already spoken about it to Mr. Ayer, who has had a long and fortunate experience in this business, and he thinks the project may be carried out.

THE BABCOCK.

One of the obstacles to the success of the creameries and cheeseries of the province is the objection a good many of our best farmers, who feed

their cattle well, have to send their milk to factories where it will be sold at the same price per lb. as the milk yielded by badly fed cows, or even as milk lowered with water. These farmers desire to be paid in proportion to the value of the milk they deliver at the factory. They are right.

There are many ways of increasing the volume of milk without adding to its richness. Not only can the pail be put under the pump, but, to give the operation a semblance of rectitude sufficient to acquit the conscience of all sense of wrong-doing, hot water, with a little salt in it, may be transmitted through the digestive apparatus of the cow.

The milk of this cow will be abundant but poor enough; still it will, if sold by weight, fetch as much as the best.

In order to put a stop to these frauds, recourse was first had to the law, and fines were inflicted on those who added water, directly from the pump, to their milk. But the question was how to reach the other, the farmer who took advantage of the factitious thirst of his cow to induce her to gorge a lot of water as if she were a warehouse, but always with a view to its reappearing in the milk-pail.

Recourse was then had to an instrument called the Babcock—from the name of its inventor, I suppose. Every maker will soon get one; it is the surest of detectives; it will ensure that what belongs to Cæsar shall be paid to Cæsar, and that the cheat will not be able to sell his water. The Babcock will show how much butter-fat there is in the milk, and the maker will pay the patron his just proportion. The good farmer will thus receive payment in proportion to the good care and food he gives his cows.

It will be with the milk as it is with the superphosphate which you now buy, paying a higher price in proportion to the higher percentage of phosphoric acid it contains.

Our inspectors, on leaving the dairy-school, will introduce everywhere these useful instruments, through the agency of which the main objection of our good farmers to the creameries and cheeseries will disappear; no more robberies on the common labor of all will be possible.

What I have said to the members of the House to-day I intend to repeat to the agricultural societies, to the farmers' clubs, in the press and in circulars.

From every parish I ask for an agricultural cadet.

A silo: I have, at the service of everyone who shall ask for them, all the directions for the construction of a silo and for the practice of ensilage.

All the creameries and cheeseries in existence should be syndicated.

In the aggregate of our exports, cheese comes immediately after the

products of our forests. Timber is disappearing rapidly ; when that vast harvest, sown by the hand of Providence on our soil, shall have vanished, man can never renew it. But the greater the exports of the products of our dairy industry, the greater the increase of our cattle, the greater the increase of the fertility of soil, the greater the wealth of our country.

FARM-BUILDINGS.

I cannot avoid saying a word, *en passant*, on the importance of well-constructed farm-buildings. Our climate is a stern one. The cattle are in the house half the year. The warmer, the better ventilated and lighted they are the less the stock will cost to feed. Of the warmth necessary for the support of life, that which the animal does not obtain from the circumambient air, he must obtain from a greater consumption of food. To erect buildings in which the cattle feel all the warmth they need, is therefore an economy.

The Department has at the service of all several plans of barns, which will be sent, gratis, to all who ask for them.

When anyone is about to lay out money in important farm-buildings that may serve as a model to the neighborhood, in addition to the despatch of the plans I have spoken of, the Department will, if it is asked to do so and the project appears to be useful, send to the spot a competent man capable of giving advice as to the arrangement of these buildings, the best place for their erection, etc.

DRAINAGE.

I may also inform those about to drain their farms that the Department is in a position to procure them pipes at a good discount ; that in case the draining is to be of considerable extent and of great interest to the locality, upon request being made to that effect, an engineer shall be sent to take the principal levels.

OFFICE FOR ANALYSIS.

The Honourable Premier called my attention lately to the importance of establishing, in every important centre in the province, an office for analysis, both for the agricultural and the mining industries. An approved tariff will be published, so that everyone will know beforehand the cost of the analysis he wants to have made. I need not say that I shall favour with all my power the creation of these offices, and that the charges

made shall be as moderate as possible. There will be one at Quebec, where we ourselves already have the commencement of a laboratory; one at Montreal, one at St. Hyacinthe, where our experiment station in connection with the College of St. Hyacinthe is situated; and one at Sherbrooke.

At these offices, the farmer will be able to get the artificial manures he buys tested. He can have the different soils of his farm analysed, and thus find out wherein they are defective.

The prospector in search of mines may send his samples there in order to know at once the value of his discovery.

By means of these easily accessible institutions, doubtless more than one farmer, who otherwise would never trouble himself to inquire into the composition of the mineral his plough has just happened to turn up, will find himself, perhaps, all at once the possessor of a property of very high value.

CONCLUSION.

I have said what I proposed to say, and I conclude by asking you all once more to give me every possible assistance throughout the province. Every one should do his part. Your hearty applause leads me to believe that you accept this programme so humbly presented to you. With your aid, coupled with the aid of the clergy and of all well disposed and progressive men, our farm-schools will soon overflow with pupils, there will be siloes all over the province, and all the factories will be syndicated.

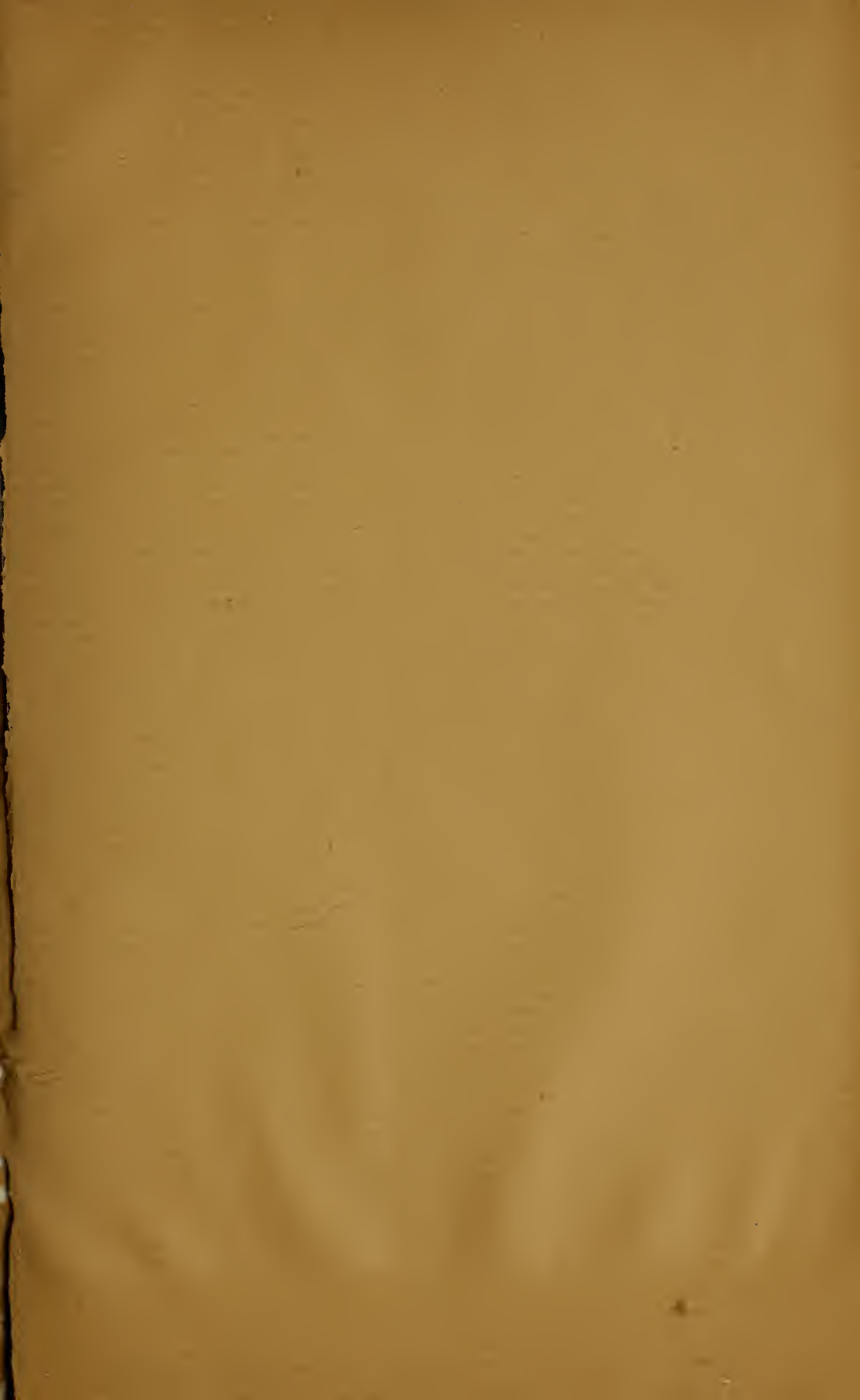
When our schools shall be crowded, we will set about other establishments, we will address our good farmers, such farmers as those whom we are about to crown in the House as the laureates of the order of agricultural merit. They, too, can bring up pupils. In that so well farmed country, Scotland, there are no other farm-schools than the farms themselves.

My wish is that good farmers should be found all over our country. Who says "good farmer," says, almost invariably, in this our country, a good Christian, an example to the parish, a man at the head of all charitable works. It has been said of him more than once that, having always before his eyes the marvels of creation, the man of the fields remains good and virtuous, for from the soil there arises around him, as it were, the aroma of all the virtues. Providence gives him his bread in abundance day by day. He has no need to envy his neighbour, but of all men the most free, he depends solely on his God.

To support our courage, we can repeat to ourselves that there is very

little wanting to us in the Province of Quebec. Our people are moral and industrious. We want a little more skill and activity in business, in trade, and in manual labour. The work of intelligence is perfected. We have the men. They make their mark.

If intellectual power assists the hand, if the head aids the arm, the Province of Quebec will occupy and retain the rank she ought to hold in the agriculture of the Dominion, the same rank she already holds in the arts and sciences, the *first* rank!



*Bucc les Comptes rendus du
Commissaire de l'Agriculture
et de la Colonisation.*

